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Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111 - Tel: 588-9517 - Fax: 588-9518 - E-mail: themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

Dow on track for worst month since February '09

NEW YORK (AP) – Two weeks after a mini-meltdown that still hasn't been fully explained, the stock market had another tumultuous ride this week as disarray in Europe heightened fears of a global slowdown.

Even with a moderate comeback yesterday, this week is shaping up to be one of the worst since the bull market began more than a year ago. Major stock indexes are now 10 percent or more below peaks reached in late April. Declines of that size are known as "corrections."

Whether the market has finished wringing out its excesses is anyone's guess. Stocks posted slight gains in relatively subdued trading yesterday, a day after a swift 370-point plunge gave the Dow Jones industrial average its worst drop in more than a year. That left the Dow and other market barometers about where they were in early February and down about 3 percent for the

The immediate catalyst for this week's sharp declines was deepening confusion over how Europe intends to get control of its public finances, restore order to financial markets and confidence in the continent's shared currency, the euro.

Germany broke ranks from its European neighbors this week in single-handedly reining in speculative trading in European bonds. And yesterday it was rebuffed in its calls for harsh punishments for European countries that consistently flout rules on fiscal spending limits.

Just how big of a worry Europe's financial mess is for the rest of the world was brought home loud and clear late Thursday when Federal Reserve Governor Daniel Tarullo told a congressional panel that the timing of Europe's financial swoon could pose a "potentially serious setback" to the global economy. If fearful Europe's banks crack down on lending, the thinking goes, other banks around the world could follow suit, tripping up economies around the world.

The unsettling news from Europe this week reminded investors of how tepid the U.S. economic recovery really is in historic terms. Gross domestic product rose 3.2 percent in the first three months of the year, but that's not nearly as strong of a comeback as many had expected. Companies also aren't hiring that much, unemployment is still around 10 percent and the housing market hasn't recovered from its slump

"Normally you would get a much stronger snapback," said Paul Ballew, chief economist at Nationwide Insurance in Columbus, Ohio, and a former senior economist with the Federal Reserve, "Given the magnitude of the downturn, growth should be much stronger than that already."

U.S. markets opened lower again yesterday, but a rally in financial shares helped stocks edge higher. JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Bank of America Corp. were the biggest gainers in the 30 stocks that make up the Dow Jones industrial average after the Senate passed long-awaited financial reform legislation, removing a significant overhang for U.S. banks.

In other signs that a flight away from risky assets this week was waning, Treasury bonds were flat after spiking on Thursday, the dollar edged lower and commodity prices stabilized. Gold prices edged lower, and the Vix index, a gauge of stock market volatility, fell 5 percent after surging higher on Thursday.

The Dow had last fallen below 10,000 on May 6 when it lost nearly 1,000 points in an afternoon rout that was the biggest ever intraday slide. Regulators have said they are still unclear on what caused the brief drop.

Minister Otmar Oduber Soul Beach Music Festival is the first step in the direction to transform San Nicolas into a cultural and historical town

Minister of Labor, Transport and Tourism, Otmar Oduber commented on the record breaking sale of the tickets abroad for the upcoming Soul Beach Music Festival. With only a week left, this is a positive sign, most of the hotels forming part of this event are already fully booked. In Curacao everything is sold out since last week and now they are busy coordinating extra charter flights, the same is the case in Surinam and other markets.

As for the U.S., the minister said that the pre-sale increased 20%. "We are very happy with the results," he commented. "This is the goal we wanted to reach when we increased the budget, to be able to get two high-class, Grammy-winner artists, putting us in a different category than before."

Concerning local issues, the minister said that now they started promoting the other side of the island, namely San Nicolas. This will add some special flavor to this year's festival.

Minister Oduber informs that Shaquille O'Neal will host the Comedy night and it is understood that a big group of high caliber fans already confirmed their presence. This shows that the enthusiasm is growing. The minister stated: "Many times we spend millions of dollars promoting Aruba abroad, but when tourists arrive here they do not know what is going on. We want to involve them into our community."

Posters were placed all over San Nicolas. 'I believe that San Nicolas has a lot to offer. not only their famous cuisine.



I believe that San Nicolas is rich in history and culture. This is the first step to showcase San Nicolas' cultural and historical aspects. There will be a Sanifest before the festival around the Joe Laveist stadium, starting at 5 p.m. Here tourists can get acquainted with the San Nicolas culture, where already 17 groups inscribed to participate."

There will be between 4,000 to 4,500 attendees who will return to their countries narrating the wealth of Aruba's culture and history, where 49 different nationalities live together in harmony.





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No survivors found at Afghan airline crash site



Torn-apart wreckage of a commercial airliner

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) – Searchers found no survivors yesterday among 44 people on board an Afghan commercial airliner that crashed this week on a remote mountain north of the capital of Kabul, the aviation minister said.

The Antonov-24 operated by Pamir Airways disappeared

Monday on a flight from Kunduz to Kabul. The wreckage was spotted Thursday by a search plane on a 13,500-foot (4,100-meter) mountain in Shakar Darah district north of Kabul.

Aviation Minister Mohammadullah Batash said that ground searchers reached the site yesterday but found no survivors.

Three Britons and one American were among eight foreign passengers on the plane along with nationals from

Pakistan and Australia, according to chief aviation investigator Ghulam Farooq. He did not have precise numbers for Australian and Pakistani passengers.

Russia's Itar-Tass news agency said three Tajikistan citizens working for the airline were also aboard, possibly among the crew.

Photos supplied by NATO forces show the plane broken into four pieces and strewn across a steep mountainside about 24 miles (38 kilometers) north of Kabul. Bad weather and the rugged mountain terrain hampered the search.

Afghan military search teams collected body parts strewn among traces of snow on the high plateau where the plane went down. Parts of the aircraft slid down a ravine and slammed into a boulder.

The cause of the crash, which occurred in heavy fog, has not been determined. The airline denied allegations of lax safety procedures made by an American photojournalist who said she took a Pamir flight from Kunduz to Kabul on May 4.

Stephanie Sinclair said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that during the flight, the pilot allowed several passengers to enter the cockpit even though there was turbulence and bad weather. They remained there until the plane

Obama orders new fuel standards for future

WASHINGTON (AP) – President Barack Obama directed the government yesterday to set the first-ever mileage and pollution limits for big trucks and to tighten rules for future cars and SUVs, setting the nation's sights on vehicles that run on half the fuel they now use and give off half the pollution.

"The nation that leads in the clean energy economy will lead the global economy. And I want America to be that nation," Obama declared at the White House as he signed a presidential memorandum that would reshape the country's driving habits long after he leaves office.

With the catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico underscoring the risks of America's heavy reliance on fossil fuels, Obama gave federal agencies just over a year to come up with fuel efficiency and greenhouse gas emission standards for commercial trucks and buses.

Such vehicles are big pol-

luters and fuel consumers even though they're far outnumbered by passenger cars. The Union of Concerned Scientists, an environmental advocacy group, said large trucks represent about 4 percent of all vehicles on U.S. highways but devour more than 20 percent of fuel.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, commercial trucks account for 21 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in the transportation sector — compared with 33 percent for passenger cars and 29 percent for SUVs, pickups and minivans.

The new standards, to be issued in July of next year, would apply to big trucks and buses for model years 2014-2018

Obama also asked the Department of Energy to work with carmakers and others to promote the development of advanced vehicles including plug-in hybrids and electric cars, and to give technical help to cities preparing for them.

Haiti officials warn heavy rains could hit capital

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) – Haitian officials are warning that a heavy rains could trigger floods and landslides in the quake-addled country

Disaster prevention officials issued an "orange" alert for yesterday and five following days based on a weather system now forming near Cuba.

The alert is their secondhighest warning. At-risk areas include Port-au-Prince, Jacmel, Leogane and others ravaged by the Jan. 12 earthquake that displaced an estimated 1.5 million people.

No evacuation plans exist for the hundreds of thousands still living in makeshift camps prone to floods, torrents of mud and potential spread of disease.

Authorities say residents should avoid flooded rivers and be prepared to move if necessary.

Meanwhile, in France, Stars from Russell Crowe to Jennifer Lopez raised 5.36 million euros (6.7 million dollars) at the Cannes film festival for the fight against HIV-AIDS, then dug deep to help Haiti.

The millions were raised at the annual gala hosted during the film festival by AMFAR, the American Foundation for AIDS Research -- one of the biggest celebrity events in Europe. It had raised 3.23 million euros last year.

After the dinner, one of the world's top AIDS fundraising events of the year, Crowe and singer Lionel Ritchie collected 80,000 euros (100,000 dollars) for Haiti at a party attended by actor Benicio Del Toro and Elisabeth Banks.

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Chavez: Venezuela Bolivar should be nearer official rate

CARACAS, Venezuela --Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said the nation's foreign-exchange rate should be much closer to the official rate of 4.3 bolivars per dollar and that he will proceed with a new government-run currency-trading system.

Venezuela suspended trading of dollar-denominated assets in the local market on May 18 and the government said it plans to create a trading range for the currency. The central bank will oversee transactions in a bid to control inflation and speculation in the market, bank President Nelson Merentes said.

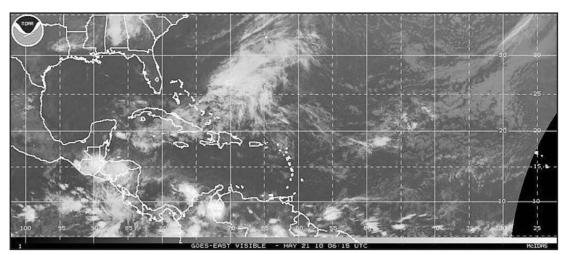
Chavez said May 19 that brokerages had committed "fraud" in currency transactions and were trying to weaken the bolivar to 10 per dollar or more. Until May 18, Venezuelans used the parallel currency market to obtain dollars through the swap of bolivar and dollar bonds via brokerages.

All holders of Venezuelan bonds should declare their ownership as the country wants to "recover" some of its bonds, Chavez said late yesterday on state television, without elaborating. He also said that currency controls implemented in 2003 have been "excellent."

Venezuela's free-floating currency rate, known as the parallel rate, has declined 26 percent this year to 8.1 per dollar, more than 45 percent weaker than the official rate, as Chavez's seizure of private companies prompts investors to withdraw capital from the country.

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Atlantic system has chance of growing into 1st named storm of season



MIAMI, Florida — Could there be an early Atlantic storm brewing?

Retired National Weather Service meteorlogist Jim Lushine says there is a system that could possibly become a subtropical or tropical storm as soon as this weekend.

But Lushine, who is also keeping a close eye on movements of the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, thinks the Atlantic system could be headed in the direction of the border between Florida and Georgia.

WPTV Storm Team Meteorologist Keenan Smith also sees it possibly forming by the end of the weekend or early next week. However, Smith said if it does form into a storm, it should stay well away from South Florida.

According to Smith, "Several reliable forecast models show a disturbance forming north of Hispaniola over the next several days. Typically, early season systems start in the Caribbean and are heavy rain producers. Water tempe-

ratures near Hispaniola are right around 80 degrees, which is important for tropical development. Water temps north of that area do drop off, though.

"While we'll certainly have to watch this disturbance over the next several days, there is no immediate threat to South Florida. In fact, models have this system moving north towards the Carolinas."

If it becomes an official storm, it would be named Alex

One of world's rarest stamps to be auctioned

GENEVA, Switzerland (AP)— One of world's rarest stamps is going up for auction this weekend and could fetch a recordbreaking price, the head of a Geneva auction house said.

The Swedish "Treskilling Yellow" is believed to be the only surviving misprint of an 1855 three shilling stamp that was supposed to be green. It has fabled status among collectors and is considered one of the world's most valuable objects pound for pound.

"I'm hoping it will be a new record," auctioneer David Feldman said yesterday. He oversaw its last official sale in 1996 for 2.875 million Swiss francs (then about US\$2.3 million).

Today's auction will involve several undisclosed telephone bidders whose credentials have been checked, Feldman told The Associated Press.

All who take part have been sworn to secrecy, but the buyer will have the right to decide whether his name and the purchase price can be revealed after the sale, said Feldman.

The Treskilling Yellow is "one of about a half dozen highly notorious stamps in the world," according to noted U.S. stamp expert Robert Odenweller.

The 1856 "British Guiana 1 cent Magenta" is the best-

known of all unique stamps, but has been locked away in a vault since 1980 when it was bought for nearly US\$1 million by John du Pont. The heir to the du Pont chemical fortune is currently serving a 13 to 30-year sentence for third degree murder.

The Treskilling Yellow has changed hands at least once since 1996, but little is known about the current owner.

"It's always been shrouded in a certain amount of mystery. I couldn't even guess at this moment," said Odenweller, a past president of the Collectors Club of New York.

Feldman, the auctioneer, declined to name the seller but hinted that necessity may have forced the owner to part with the stamp.

"I can disclose that the current owner gave the item as a pledge, as a financial security," Feldman told the AP. "This is a realization of the security."

The Treskilling Yellow is said to have been found in 1885 by a Swedish schoolboy among a pile of letters left by his grandparents. Odenweller said the story may be apocryphal, as a similar tale is told about the 1 cent Magenta.

He said it was impossible to accurately appraise stamps such as the Treskilling Yellow because "value is what somebody wants to pay for it." Nor would he predict who might buy it.

But for those who can afford it, the stamp would be a prize possession even in times of economic downturn.

"The people who are willing to spend that kind of money have themselves fairly well cushioned," said Odenweller.

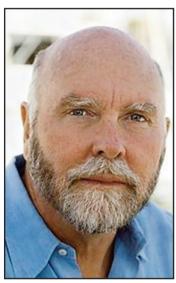




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Church warns cell scientists not to play God



Dr. J. Craig Venter

ROME, Italy (AP) – Catholic Church officials said yesterday that the recently created first synthetic cell could be a positive development if correctly used, but warned scientists that only God can create life.

Vatican and Italian church officials were mostly cautious in their first reaction to the announcement from the United States that researchers had produced a living cell containing manmade DNA. They warned scientists of the ethical responsibility of scientific progress and said that the manner in which the innovation is applied in the future will be crucial.

"It's a great scientific discovery. Now we have to understand how it will be implemented in the future," Monsignor Rino Fisichella, the Vatican's top bioethics official, said.

"If we ascertain that it is for the good of all, of the environment and man in it, we'll keep the same judgment," he said. "If, on the other hand, the use of this discovery should turn against the dignity of and respect for human life, then our judgment would change."

Fisichella, who heads Vatican's Pontifical Academy for Life, stressed there is no necessary clash between science and faith.

"We look at science with great interest. But we think above all about the meaning that must be given to life," Fisichella said. "We can only reach the conclusion that we need God, the origin of life."

Catholic Church teaching holds that human life is God's gift, created through natural procreation between a man and woman

The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, called the synthetic cell "an interesting result" but stressed that it "must have rules, like all the things that touch on the heart of life."

The paper said genetic engineering can do good but acts on "a very fragile terrain."

"It's all about combining courage with caution," it said.

The inventors said the world's first synthetic cell is more a re-creation of existing life — changing one simple type of bacterium into another — than a built-from-scratch kind. But genome-mapping pioneer J. Craig Venter said his team's project paves the way for designing organisms that work differently from the way nature intended for a wide range of uses.

A top Italian cardinal, Angelo Bagnasco, said the invention is "further sign of intelligence, God's gift to understand creation and be able to better govern it," according to Apcom and ANSA news agencies.

"On the other hand, intelligence can never be without responsibility," said Bagnasco, the head of the Italian bishops' conference. "Any form of intelligence and any scientific acquisition ... must always be measured against the ethical dimension, which has at its heart the true dignity of every person."

Another official with the Italian bishops' conference, Bishop Domenico Mogavero, expressed concern that scientists might be tempted to play God.

"Pretending to be God and parroting his power of creation is an enormous risk that can plunge men into a barbarity," Mogavero said. Scientists "should never forget that there is only one creator: God."

"In the wrong hands, today's development can lead tomorrow to a devastating leap in the dark," said Mogavero, who heads the conference's legal affairs department.

A month in, outrage over Gulf oil spill grows

GRAND ISLE, Louisiana (AP) – Thick, sticky oil crept deeper into delicate marshes of the Mississippi Delta, an arrival dreaded for a month since the crude started spewing into the Gulf, as anger and frustration mounted over efforts to plug the gusher from a blownout well and contain the spill.

Up to now, only tar balls and a sheen of oil had come ashore. But brown and vivid orange globs and sheets of foul-smelling oil the consistency of latex paint have begun coating the reeds and grasses of Louisiana's wetlands, home to rare birds, mammals and a rich variety of marine life.

A deep, stagnant ooze sat in the middle of a particularly devastated marsh off the Louisiana coast where Emily Guidry Schatzel of the National Wildlife Federation was examining stained reeds.

"This is just heartbreaking," she said with a sigh. "I can't believe it."

Yesterday, officials in the island resort community of Grand Isle, south of New Orleans, announced they were closing the public beach because thick globs of oil that looked like melted chocolate were washing up.

Ralph Morgenweck of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said countless animals could be feeling the effects of the spill, though workers have found only a handful hurt or injured.

BP PLC was leasing the Deepwater Horizon rig when it exploded April 20, killing 11 workers and triggering the massive spill. The company conceded yesterday what some scientists have been saying for weeks: More oil is flowing from the leak than BP and the Coast Guard had previously estimated.

"It's anger at the people who are supposed to be driving the ship don't have any idea what's going on," said E.J. Boles, 55, a musician from Big Pine Key, Fla. "Why wouldn't they have any contingency plan? I'm not a genius and even I would have thought of that."

The BP executive in charge of fighting the spill, Chief Operating Officer Doug Suttles, said he understands the public frustration. He said yesterday that in the worst case scenario, the gusher could continue until early August, when a new well being drilled to cap the flow permanently could be finished.

But Suttles said he believes the rich Gulf environment will recover, in part because it is a large body of water and has



Oil impacted marshes are seen of Pass a Loutre, Louisiana.

withstood other oil spills.

"I'm optimistic, I'm very optimistic that the Gulf will fully recover," Suttles said.

A live video feed of the underwater gusher, posted online after lawmakers exerted pressure on BP, is sure to fuel the anger.

It shows what appears to be a large plume of oil and gas still spewing into the water next to the stopper-and-tube combination that BP inserted to carry some of the crude to the surface. The House committee website where the video was posted promptly crashed because so many people were trying to view it.

"BP has lost all credibility ... It's clear that they have been hiding the actual consequences of this spill," said U.S. Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass.

At least 6 million gallons have gushed into the Gulf since the explosion, more than half of what the Exxon Valdez tanker spilled in Alaska in 1989. A growing number of scientists believe it's more.

BP spokesman Mark Proegler said that the mile-long tube inserted into a leaking pipe over the weekend is capturing 210,000 gallons of oil a day—the total amount the company and the Coast Guard have estimated is gushing into the sea—but some is still escaping. He would not say how much.

Washington, meanwhile, has turned up the pressure on BP.

The Obama administration asked the company to be more open with the public by sharing such information as measurements of the leak and the trajectory of the spill. BP has been accused of covering up the magnitude of the disaster.

Also, the Environmental Protection Agency directed BP to employ a less toxic form of the chemical dispersants it has been using to break up the oil and keep it from reaching the surface

BP is marshaling equipment for an attempt as early as Sunday at a "top kill," which involves pumping heavy mud into the top of the blown-out well to try to plug the gusher.

If it doesn't work, the backup plans include a "junk shot" — shooting golf balls, shredded tires, knotted rope and other material into the well to clog it up.

"We're now looking at a scenario where response plans include lighting the ocean on fire, pouring potent chemicals into the water, and using trash and human hair to stop the flow of oil," said Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club, in a letter to President Barack Obama calling for a formal moratorium on new offshore drilling permits. "If this is the backup plan, we need to rethink taking the risk in the first place."

Patience was wearing thin among state and local officials who called on Obama to take a larger role in the fight against oil invading the Louisiana coast

"We've given BP enough time," said Jefferson Parish Councilman John Young.

"Everything in that marsh is dead as we speak," Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser said after touring the clogged marshes. "Had you fallen off that boat yesterday and come up breathing that stuff, you probably wouldn't be here, either."

Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture:

Stimulating the welfare of small and medium-sized businesses is an essential part of our economic development



Recently, the Aruba Investment Bank (AIB) launched its program Small & Medium Enterprise (SME).

The main aim of the Pilot Small and Medium Enterprise Program (SME) is to create a program where new ventures can grow into successful businesses with the guidance and support of a network of service providers.

The collaborators of this program include efforts from the commercial banks, various accountants, AMTI, and the Government of Aruba.

The Program will: (1) guide the entrepreneur in the planning of the new venture and the making of a business plan against a very attractive fee, (2) help the entrepreneur obtain the necessary financing, (3) guide and support the entrepreneur during the first two years of operation.

The guidance and support offered to the Program participant during the two years of the Program include: accounting services, legal advice, business guidance, management training and financial performance monitoring.

The new venture should benefit the local economy by:

- -Inducing export
- Substituting import
- Supporting economic diversification
- Performing a manufacturing or production activity
- The total investment of the project should be of a minimum of AWG 200,000.
- The individual(s) starting the venture should be of Dutch Nationality and should reside in Aruba.
- The individual starting the new venture should have basic knowledge of the products or services he is going to offer and needs to have proof of some preparatory work.
 - The own equity of the new

venture should cover a representative percentage (between 10% to 30%) of the total investment needed to start-up the new venture, depending on the requirements of the project (venture).

- Depending on the project, proof of any collateral to be used as security for the proposed project should be adequate (such as appraisal report, asset list, etc.).
- The individual starting the new venture should possess the necessary management skills.
- Application should be completed as described below.

Present at the occasion, Minister of Economic Affairs, Social Affairs and Culture Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar stated: "Today, every modern and inteligent economy depends of entrepeneurs or merchants. These are the people with an idea, and are who willing to take the necessary risk to start with a company from nothing. Most of the time the fear of failure keeps us from achieving big things in life. Addicionally, the administrative requirements most of the time discourage the entrepeneurs to pursue their ideas. And finally the real headache financing and how to attract investors and make them believe in your project."

Aruba definitely needs more entrepeneurs and with this program the government hopes to offer the necessry tools for potential entrepeneurs to realize that they can execute their ideas and, what are the first step to opening a business.

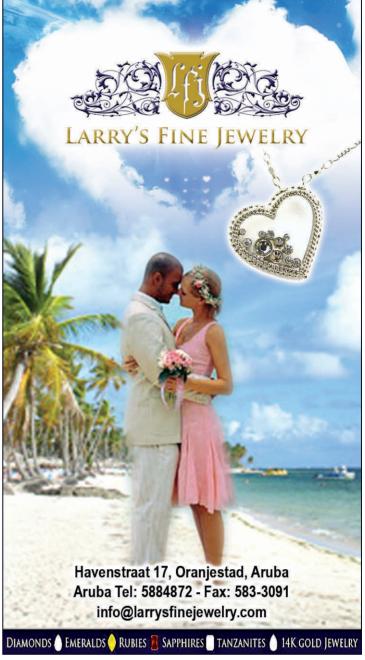
The minister continued: "This program as almost similar to a healthy person going to the doctor for a check-up, thus the actual situation of a small or medium-sized business will be analized and AIB will guide the entity in the right direction to keep it competitive with the

chance of growing." With this she means that the program does not need to be solely for entrepeneurs who want to start with a new business, but also for the existing ones who want to verify if they are on the good track or want to expand their operations and markets.

Stimulating entrepeneurship and the welfare of existing small and medium-sized businesses is an essential part of our economic development. Minister Hooyboer-Winklaar made the distinction between economic development and economic growth. Economic developement is much more than only a positive shift in our Product Gross Domestic (GDP), which is a measure of a country's overall economic output. Economic development takes into account the social and technological impact on our economy, while innovation is the base of this development.

"For those who think that now is not a good time to start with a business, think again. A total of 16 of the 30 big businesses that appears in the DOW Jones Industrial list started in times of recession. To mention a few, Disney started during the recession of 1923 to 1924. Hewlett-Packard started during the 'Great Depression' of 1938. Microsoft started during the recession of 1975," the minister said, encouraging those present to pursue their dreams because it is possible.

"But the program needs partners. Without the help of local banks, the desired results will not be achieved. As history taught us, to surpass big challenges, it requires people willing to work hard together for the same goal. And the economic challenges which we confront today requires the compromise of public and private entities, working together hand in hand," she concluded.



Experts suggest eating invasive lionfish

Fighting a losing battle against the invasive, candy-striped aquarium fish that is the Western Hemisphere's worst oceanic menace, conservationists, tour operators and chefs are out to slow their spread the only way they know how: finding and catching them fast, and then turning them into batter-fried, roasted and grilled delectables.

The hope is that by sponsoring fishing tournaments, encouraging anglers to go after the slow-swimming species and marketing it to restaurants and diners, the region may stave off an already severe crisis that could lay waste to the delicate web of undersea life if left unchecked.

The tropical native of the Indian and Pacific oceans already has colonized large swaths of the Eastern Seaboard, the Caribbean and recently the Gulf of Mexico, and threatens to wreak ecological chaos as far away as South America.



Preparing the lionfish for human consumption, however, is simple. Unlike the pufferfish -- a delicacy in Japan known as "fugu" that contains lethal toxins in various internal organs - the lionfish has venom only in its spines. Once those are sliced away or burned off with a torch, the meaty filets are ready for the frying pan.

According to chefs, lionfish has a mild, versatile flavor that lends itself to everything from a basic fry to marinated ceviche. It can be dried into lionfish jerky, or served raw on sticky rice as sushi.

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Science/Tech.

The Fishy Origins of Humans Revealed

Humans have hardy prehistoric fish ancestors to thank for paving the way to their eventual evolution, a new study suggests.

About 360 million years ago a mass extinction event hit the reset button on Earth's life, wiping out most of the fish that existed then near the time when the first vertebrates (all animals with backbones) crawled from water towards land. The species fortunate enough to survive set the stage for modern vertebrate biodiversity.

"Everything was hit; the extinction was global," said study leader Lauren Sallan of the University of Chicago. "It reset vertebrate diversity in every single environment, both freshwater and marine, and created a completely different world.'

The extinction hit near the end of the Age of Fishes (more commonly known as the Devonian Period, from 416 to 359 million years ago) for the broad array of species present in Earth's aquatic environments.

Armored prehistoric fish called placoderms and lobefinned fishes - similar to the modern lungfish - dominated the waters, while ray-finned fishes, sharks and tetrapods vertebrate animals with four feet - were in the minority.

But between the Devonian Period and the following Carboniferous period, placoderms disappeared and ray-finned fishes rapidly replaced lobefinned fishes as the dominant group, a demographic shift that persists today.

"There's some sort of pinch at the end of the Devonian," said study team member Michael Coates of the University of Chicago. "Something happened that almost wiped the slate clean, and, of the few stragglers that made it through, a handful then re-radiate spectacularly."

The researchers analyzed the vertebrate fossil record

and pinpointed a critical shift in diversity to the Hangenberg extinction event. The Hangenberg event hit 15 million years after another extinction event - the Late Devonian Kellwasser event. considered to be one of the Big Five extinctions in Earth's history - that scientists have long theorized that was responsible for a marine invertebrate species shake-up.

Prior to the extinction, lobe-finned forms such as Tiktaalik and the earliest limbed tetrapods such as Ichthyostega had made the first moves toward a landdwelling existence.

But after the extinction, a long stretch of the fossil record known as "Romer's Gap," is almost barren of tetrapods, a puzzle that had confused paleontologists for many years. The 15-millionyear gap was the hangover after the traumatic Hangenberg event, said the study's authors.

When tetrapods finally recovered, those survivors were likely the great-great-grandfathers to the vast majority of land vertebrates present today, including humans.

Due to prevailing privacy concerns, several Facebook members are thinking to quit the popular social networking site -- at least 60% of them -according to a latest survey conducted by IT security firm, Sophos.

In a poll of 1,588 Facebook users, it revealed that the extent of member concerns is over the network's privacy settings. The online survey showed that almost two thirds of Facebook users are considering leaving, with 16% claiming to have already stopped using Facebook as a result of inadequate control over their data.

Only recently, Facebook has been criticized over changes on how it can share user data across its site and with other websites.

Sophos said concerns have centered on the complexity and

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Facebook Users Mulling to Quit



the "opt-out" approach to sharing member information with wider networks. Media reports suggest that Facebook is planning to announce changes to its privacy settings within the next few days, but it is unclear as to whether any changes will be substantial enough to address user concerns.

Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant at Sophos, commented that the poll only shows that majority of users are "fed up" with the lack of control that Facebook gives users over their data.

"Most still don't know how to set their Facebook privacy options safely, finding the whole system confusing," Cluley said, adding what is needed is a fundamental shift towards asking users to "opt-in" to sharing information, rather than to "opt-out."

HP recalls more batteries that pose a fire hazard

Hewlett-Packard has extended a worldwide recall program for batteries that could cause laptops to overheat and pose a fire hazard.

The company on Wednesday said it added new battery models to an original laptop recall program announced May 14 of last year and updated last October. The lithium-ion batteries are being used in more than 30 models worldwide in HP's laptop brands including Compaq Presario, Pavilion, HP and HP Compaq.

In a statement warning about the hazardous batteries, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission advised

users to "stop using recalled products immediately."

HP and CPSC were aware of two incidents where the batteries overheated, resulting in flames and fire that caused property damage, the agency said. No injuries were reported.

The battery packs may have shipped in laptops man ufactured between August 2007 and May 2008. HP assumes that "less than 3 percent" of the laptops contained the affected battery packs.

Users can verify whether a battery is eligible for replacement on HP's Web site. The laptop batteries will be replaced free, HP said.

Belly Fat Linked to Dementia

Belly fat is known to increase the risk for heart disease, and now scientists say it might also increase the risk of de-

Among 733 middle-aged participants, more fat around the abdomen was associated with less total brain volume.

The results agree with a growing body of research linking obesity to a higher risk for dementia. However, the current findings suggest belly fat, rather than overall fat level, might be the more specific culprit behind this link.

Further research will be needed to confirm the findings, the researchers say.

Participants included men and women, with an average age of 60, who were part of an ongoing study, called the Framingham Heart Study Offspring Cohort, which began back in 1971.

Subjects had a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) brain scan, to measure their brain size, as well as a computed tomography (CT) scan of their abdomen to gauge fat levels.

The researchers also looked at other measures of obesity, including body mass index, or BMI (a ratio of a person's height to weight that

is considered an indicator of body fatness), the waist-tohip ratio, and waist circum-

The strongest link was seen between abdominal fat and brain size: more tummy fat meant less brain volume. This result held regardless of BMI, suggesting that abdominal fat might be a better indicator for dementia risk than BMI, and might contribute more to this link than fat in other parts of the body.

The findings could help researchers better understand the relationship between obesity and dementia.

HEALTH & LIVING



How to Unleash the Power of Garlic



This seasoning does more than kick up marinara. It stops sniffles, wards off UTIs, and may even help prevent cancer. Who knew garlic could have so many benefits?

Clear up UTIs

Cranberry juice isn't the only natural way to fight annoying urinary tract infections. A diet rich in garlic can help, too, thanks to the bulb's natural antimicrobial proper-

ties, says Amanda Ursell, author of The Complete Guide to Healing Foods. Garlic bread, anyone?

Crush cancer

The next time you're cooking, mince the garlic ahead of time. Nutritionists at the American Institute for Cancer Research found that letting chopped or crushed garlic sit for 10 minutes before heating helps it retain a

third more of its cancer-fighting sulfur compounds than if it were cooked immediately.

Fight itchy feet

Got athlete's foot? Reach for garlic, a powerful antifungal, says Debra Rouse, a naturopathic physician in Denver. Just boil several cloves in hot water, cool to a comfortable temperature, pour into a large bowl, and soak your feet. (Boiled and uncrushed garlic won't leave a smell.)

Combat a cold

At the first sign of the sniffles, try this get-well trick from Gowsala Sivam, PhD, of Bastyr University in Kenmore, Washington. Microwave 2 cloves unpeeled garlic for 25 seconds; let it cool, then peel off the skin and eat. Garlic's sulfur compounds likely boost the immune system and help fight infection, Sivam says.

Let it bloom:

Plant garlic next to your rose bushes to naturally repel pests

Pistachio Nuts May Lower Cholesterol



Antioxidant-Rich Pistachio Nuts Good for the Heart, Researchers Say

Long a staple of diets in the Mideast and around the Mediterranean, pistachio nuts may reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease, in part by decreasing cholesterol levels, a new study says.

Researchers say that pistachios are packed with antioxidants and are rich in several vitamins and minerals, such as selenium and iron, and also have healthy fats.

Penny Kris-Etherton, PhD, ND, of Pennsylvania State University's Department of Nutritional Sciences, and colleagues, found that eating pistachios increased antioxidant levels in adults with high cholesterol.

"Our previous study showed the benefits of pistachios in lowering lipids and liproproteins, which are a risk factor for heart disease," Kris-Etherton, a professor of nutrition, says in a news release. "This new study shows an additional effect of pistachios, so now there are multiple health benefits of eating pistachios."

The little morsels also are high in antioxidants lutein, beta-carotene, and gammatocopherol, compared to other nuts. Beta-carotene is the precursor to vitamin A. Gamma-tocopherol is a form of vitamin E. Lutein is found in dark green leafy vegetables and is important in vision and skin health.

The researchers say antioxidants are of interest because oxidized low-density lipoproteins, known as LDL or "bad" cholesterol, have been implicated in inflammation and plaque buildup inside blood vessels.

Acqua Condominiums Aruba reports accelerated construction pace





Acqua Condominiums Aruba reports that the first wing of the East Tower has reached the highest point of construction. Developers have just poured the 14th floor concrete beams, and are gearing up for the launch of the second wing construction.

Mid-year, Acqua Condominiums Aruba will be pouring the foundation for the South Tower, and begin work on community amenities such as the lagoon-style pool and tropical garden, the club house, business center, spa, restaurant and grand lobby, followed by the debut of the North Tower and the completion of the entire ambitious project by 2012.

Built on 30.278 m2 of property land this exciting condominium project continues to attract buyers and investors, lured by the upscale elegance of the complex Mansions, Penthouses, Suites, Studios and Residences.

General Manager Jenner Florez and Managing Director





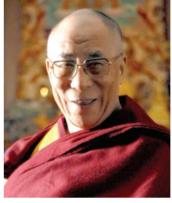
Oscar Helmeyer report that the development company is planning on doubling its workmen capacity within the next few weeks. Construction specialists recently laid off by the oil refinery will find new employment at Acqua Condominiums as plumbers, electricians and carpenters join the force in order to work on building the interiors.

"Work on the site has been in full swing since January 11th, when construction workers returned from their well-deserved Christmas vacation," explains Helmeyer. "And we are at the moment in negotiations with the department of labor to extend the number of work hours to 18 a day, maintaining two full-shifts of laborers, and resulting in accelerated construction pace."

Condominiums Aruba began construction one year ago, and has been met with great enthusiasm from the get go. A stylish and contemporary sales center on Palm Beach, on the construction site, includes a number of model apartments with Kohler bathrooms and faucets, European style kitchens with granite tops, brand-name appliances, porcelain tiles, floor to ceiling UV-filtered hurricane proof windows and doors, all tastefully furnished and finished, and available for viewing.



Dalai Lama tweets to Chinese citizens about Tibet



BEIJING (AP) – The Dalai Lama tried to hold a rare direct conversation with people inside China on Friday, answering questions live on Twitter about the fate of long-tense Tibet.

The hourlong session with the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader had been requested by Wang Lixiong, a Chinese writer and convert to Tibetan Buddhism who lives in Beijing. The two met for Friday's online conversation in a hotel room in New York, where the Dalai Lama is visiting.

Through a Chinese interpreter, the Dalai Lama tweeted messages of criticism about the Chinese government's policies in Tibet and words of welcome to Chinese citizens.

"The government made these tensions, not the people," he said.

It wasn't clear how many people inside China were reading his comments. Twitter is blocked in China, but the service has become popular with thousands of Chinese, especially activists, who find a way around controls. Wang's Twitter feed, where the conversation was posted, had more than 8,000 followers as of Friday night

Peking University professor and media critic Hu Yong tweeted that he was struck by the Dalai Lama's comment that "Stability comes from the heart."

The Dalai Lama remains a highly sensitive person for China, which objected strongly when President Barack Obama personally welcomed him to the White House in February.

China maintains that Tibet

has been part of its territory for centuries, but many Tibetans say the region was functionally independent for much of its history and consider the Dalai Lama their rightful leader. He fled 51 years ago and lives in India

China's government says the Dalai Lama seeks to destroy the country's sovereignty by pushing independence for Tibet, but he says he wants some form of autonomy instead.

While a spokesman for the office of the Dalai Lama, Tenzin Taklha, confirmed Friday's conversation, it was impossible to tell who posed the questions selected from almost 300 submitted online.

But it was a start, Wang said.

"For years, there have been only official statements about the issue of Tibet inside China," Wang said in his open letter to the Dalai Lama on May 5 requesting the online chat. "No doubt, it's hard for people to know the truth about Tibet."

Tibetans in China have long complained about restrictions on Buddhism, government propaganda campaigns against the Dalai Lama, and an influx of Chinese migrants. Those feelings boiled over in deadly anti-Chinese riots in 2008 that shocked Beijing's leaders.

The Dalai Lama said Friday the gap between Tibetans and China's majority Han Chinese "is getting deeper and deeper" and said that in some areas the Han community has grown so dramatically that "Tibetan culture faces a great crisis."

Calls to the United Front Department of the Communist Party, which handles talks with envoys of the Dalai Lama, rang unanswered Friday night.

Wang said more than 1,200 people submitted questions and that the most popular ones were asked Friday.

More than one of those questions concerned what will happen when the Dalai Lama dies, and whether the Tibet issue will be resolved before then

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Bob and Denise Favreau named Ambassadors of Goodwill of Aruba



Recently, Bob and Denise Favreau of Massachusetts were honored as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honoring took place at the Holiday Inn SunSpree. The couple came here for the first time in 1987 and since then kept returning for 23 consecutive years, staying mostly at the Holiday Inn SunSpree.

The reason for coming back year after year, they

stated, is the perfect climate, our friendly people, a variety of restaurants, the dazzling casinos and shopping.

Aruba Tourism Authority associate, Castro Perez, handed the lovely couple a handsome certificate, thanking them for their love and appreciation towards our island. Also present at the ceremony were Bellman Mr. Reynaldo Rante and ATA trainee Miss. Christine Leo

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American ladies delve into the local life

Karen Constantino of West Virginia has been an annual visitor to Aruba since 1989 and is the sort of person to "go native" and experience how locals really live. A common question of many visitors when they only dine and use tourist-oriented venues is "how can people afford to live on Aruba?"

Venturing beyond the surface of Aruba's tourist industry allowed Karen and her friend Kathy Allen went to discover a far less expensive world of services and establish strong bonds with island residents, such as Tinike, who owns the charming little Bananas Guesthouse where they stay every year.

Karen, who works in a day spa back in the U.S., admired the work done on Tinike's eyes when she indulged in a treatment of permanent eyeliner. "As soon as we saw what a great job was done on her eyes, so attractive and subtle, we wanted to get it done as well."

Tinike directed them to Mena Lopez, proprietor of Mena's Skincare in Tanki Leendert, where the women discovered that not only does Aruba sport some excellent spa and skincare centers dedicated to the local trade, their prices are extremely competitive with the cost of such services back home. Astounded at how comparatively inexpensive the service was here on Aruba, they made sure that they would return from this year's vacation with a whole new look.

Mena is a strong advocate of the permanent eyeliner procedure, having utilized it herself in 1983. "We guarantee the eyeliner for five years, but I have had mine for seventeen, and it still looks good," she ex-



Karin, Tinike, Mena and Kathy



Simple and quick procedures

plains. "For busy working women and those whose eyesight is deteriorating with maturity, this is a wonderful convenience. There is no more messy eyeliner application or time taken up when preparing and applying makeup to get that line just right, as well as no chance of your make-up becoming contaminated or a bad reaction to some ingredients, which can produce puffy, irritated eyes and infections. Most importantly-you always look great when you wake up

in the morning!"

Karen reports she is generally very impressed with the quality of products and services offered by the local spas, and is particularly pleased that she has an informed friend such as Tinike, who she "loves like a sister," to direct her to such places. "It is definitely worth looking beyond the resort areas for quality and price in services and shopping on Aruba. I think other visitors will be very pleased if they take the time."

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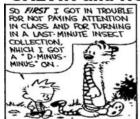
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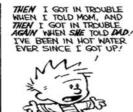




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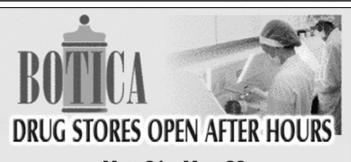
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FTC clears Google purchase of mobile ad service

SAN FRANCISCO, California (AP) – Federal regulators have approved Google Inc.'s \$750 million acquisition of the mobile ad service AdMob despite worries that the deal will enable Google to extend its dominance of Internet marketing into the nascent field of wireless devices.

The Federal Trade Commission said yesterday that its antitrust concerns were overshadowed by Apple Inc.'s push into the \$600 million mobile advertising market in the U.S.

Apple bought another online mobile ad leader, Quattro Wireless, for an undisclosed amount in January after trying to buy AdMob only to be outbid by Google in November.

Yesterday's FTC approval paves the way for Google to extend its dominance of Internet marketing into the wireless

Now that it has regulators' blessing, Google said it will close the AdMob deal within the next few weeks.

Google believes advertising on mobile devices eventually will be as lucrative as marketing on computer screens. The company considers AdMob key piece in its strategy to make more money from peo-

AdMob, launched four years ago by Omar Hamoui while he was a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton business school, runs a network that delivers targeted advertising to websites and online applications tailored for smart phones.

ple on the go.

German lawmakers back

euro aid

BERLIN/BRUSSELS - Germany's parliament yesterday approved a \$1 trillion safety net to stabilize the euro as world stocks wobbled on fears that Europe's debt crisis and tougher financial regulation may choke economic recovery.

European Union finance ministers, meeting in Brussels, backed a German call for tougher sanctions in future against states that flout the bloc's budget rules, to prevent any repeat of Greece's debt crisis, which required a euro

zone/IMF bailout.

European Central Bank President Jean-Claude Trichet sought to calm nervous markets by declaring the euro was not in danger.

Both chambers of parliament approved Berlin's contribution of up to 148 billion euros (\$183.8 billion) in loan guarantees, deeply unpopular with voters, on top of an equally divisive 22.4 billion euros in bilateral loans for debt-ridden Greece.

How "answering five questions you're AFRAID customers will ask," can ramp up your business big-time!

by Ken Varga



Hi, I am Ken Varga. I want to share with you some of the ideas, strategies, and principles that allowed me to build 35 businesses during my career.

By earnestly applying the ideas, you will learn how you too can build your business to success, while living an unhurried life, filled with family, friends, fun and a relaxed atti-

In this tip, I'm going to continue writing about the bank who hired me to get more customers for it.

One of the functions of a bank is to get new customers to start savings and checking accounts.

The more money banks have in savings accounts, the more money they can lend out.

So I had to create a direct mail piece to get prospective customers to switch from their current bank to this bank.

I created a direct mail letter that went out to all the households within a five-mile radius of the bank.

It was simply a letter of introduction, and asked them to come into the bank for, you guessed it, a Free Report that revealed the "Five Questions" you should ask any bank, that they don't want you to ask.

Before I created this report, I interviewed a few of the officers to determine what question bankers are afraid their customers might ask.

So in essence you could do the same thing. This will create your letter and the offer.

Then I created a direct mail piece for all the new people who moved into our geograph-

Basically the letter went like this:

Dear Mr.& Mrs.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you into our neighborhood.

Sometimes it's very strange moving into a new neighborhood, so we would like to extend an invitation for you to visit our Bank.

As a token of our appreciation for your time, we would like to give you a Beach Bag and also a Free Report that reveals the five questions bankers don't want you to ask when you're opening a new account.

One of our Customer Satisfaction Representatives will call you next week.

Very Truly Yours,

Naturally the letter is a little longer, but for this brief tip, you get the general idea.

Now I thought where else can I create more customers and where might they come

Answer: New births.

That's right! Most businesses miss the opportunity of new births in their neighbor-

Any Business. I don't care if you're a Pizza place, Doctor, Dentist, etc., can use this con-

1794 silver dollar sells for record **\$7.85** million

LOS ANGELES, California -What may be America's oldest silver dollar has become the world's most expensive coin, with its owner saying it changed hands in a private transaction between coin collectors for nearly \$8 million.

Steven L. Contursi, who has owned the mint-condition 1794 Liberty dollar for the past seven years, confirmed Thursday that he sold it to the Cardinal Collection Educational Foundation of Sunnyvale for \$7.85 million.

cept to create more new cus-

Anyway, the letter went like

Dear Mr. And Mrs.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on the birth of your son, Brian.

As you know the years go by very quickly and before you know it Brian, will be of college age.

Realizing this, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you that we have started Brian with a savings account for his college education.

We have started this account with \$25.

In order to complete the necessary forms, we will need you to come to our bank and give us the necessary informa-

Very truly yours,

Well, what do you think?

And guess what? When the parents arrive, the Customer Satisfaction Representative will find out where they currently bank and encourage them to switch.

These few ideas about direct mail have created an enornumber mous of new customers, each and every week.

The banks receive a list of all the new move-ins and new births in their geographical

Well, that's it for this tip. Because of the emails I've received requesting more examples, I'll continue with more in the next tip.

To your success,

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Great steaks are a family tradition at El Gaucho Restaurant



Mega Skewer

Aruba's longest established and most popular Argentinean steakhouse, El Gaucho, is still going strong after 33 successful years. Two-time winner of the prestigious Wine Spectator Award of Excellence, the restaurant proudly displays the numerous accolades it has received from other such notable wine and food societies as Chaîne des Rôtisseurs, as well as coveted awards for excellence such as the Worldwide Marketing Organization of Mexico, Golden Trophy for Quality Award of Excellence from France, Arch of Europe for Quality from Business Initiative Directions of Germany and International Award for Tourism, Hotel and Catering Industry from Spain.

Recognized around the world for its quality of service and cuisine, El Gaucho's heartiest applause comes from its loyal clientele, who recommend the restaurant to friends and family with complete confidence in their satisfaction.

When asking a frequent is-

land visitor where they go for a great steak, you will find most frequently their #1 choice will be The Gaucho Steak; a generous portion of prime tenderloin, charcoal-grilled to perfection. El Gaucho Restaurant also boasts the biggest shishkebab in the Caribbean, as well as a varied menu of fresh local fish and seafood, and everyone's favorite cut of steak and ribs.

2009 has brought some welcome changes; an expanded food and wine menu and the restaurant is now open on Sundays. A variety of lamb and veal dishes now garnish the menu, as well as a hearty 20-oz rib eye to satisfy your appetite.

El Gaucho Restaurant is open for lunch and dinner Monday through Saturday from 11:30 a.m. until 11:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 5:30 p.m.. Visit their online guestbook at www.elgaucho-aruba. com, and peruse the glorious praise their receive from their devoted fans, as well as the updated menu.

A must see while on Aruba

Experience Aruba's loveliest animals at the Donkey Sanctuary





Around the world, tourists do a lot of site-seeing. That's the way they learn about other cultures and their histories. Aruba offers a great sanctuary to lay in the sun and get a tan, but there is much more to this small island. Let's talk about the Donkey Sanctuary Aruba.

After the introduction of the automobile the donkeys were set free. Because many of them lost their habitat, (housing projects all over the island, heavy traffic), mistreatment and ignorance, the Aruban Donkey today is at the edge of extinction.

On April 14, 1997 the foundation "Save our Donkey" was established. They started by gathering 13 donkeys who continuously crossed the main road at Pos Chiquito, endangering the heavy traffic and themselves. Nowadays the Donkey Sanctuary takes care of the donkeys at the sanctuary in Santa Lucia and the other donkeys are at the sanctuary located at the Frenchmen's Pass.

There are still some donkeys living in the wild. They live in groups of 2 to 16, because a donkey can not be alone. They are the largest "wild animals" on Aruba, and are no problem at all, as long as they do not endanger traffic.

The sanctuary provides food, shelter and medical care for these wild animals and helps them get back into nature. Families can visit and learn more about the Aruban donkeys and their habitat.

There is also a donkey shop, where you can buy everything with donkeys on it,





including T-shirts, pens, toys, books, paintings and also Christmas cards, very original and nice to send to family and friends.

You can find the donkey sanctuary in the area of the Ayo Rock Formations. Follow the apple green signs and within 5 minutes you can pet the donkeys enjoying the hospitality of the sanctuary.

They are open every Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Monday till Friday from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

For more information check the website: www.arubadon-key.org.



The Road to 2010 FIFA World CUP

Brazil kick off 2010 sessions



Brazil's World Cup squad began training on Friday amid a crush of excited supporters and reporters.

Seventeen of the players converged on a training centre in the southern Brazilian city of Curitiba, out of sight of camera lenses. The other six from the 23-strong squad were absent for various reasons.

Those not present included goalkeeper Julio Cesar, right-back Maicon and centre-back Lucio, who are all due to play for Inter Milan in the final of the UEFA Champions League against Bayern Munich in Madrid on Saturday.

Coach Dunga, who turned up late because of flight delays, and the Brazilian Football Confederation had banned media contact with the players to keep them concentrating on their game.

Brazil, five-time world champions, are among the favourites going into this year's tournament in South Africa, which starts on 11 June. The Selecao have been drawn in Group G with Korea DPR, the Ivorians and Portugal.

German Doctor: New Treatment Could Mean Michael Ballack Is Ready For South Africa

The World Cup dreams of Germany captain Michael Ballack may not be over after all, as a doctor has declared that new treatment methods could speed up the healing process of the 33-year-old.

Injured in the FA Cup final between Chelsea and Portsmouth last weekend, the midfielder was swiftly ruled out of any possible action in South Africa, but Dr. Markus Becker of the German Orthopedics Network has suggested that that decision was

taken a little too quickly.

"With the help of a new treatment method could be accelerated healing significantly," he told Bild. "I think that Ballack could in any case be at least partially be restored for the World Cup."

The new method of treatment involves injecting an acid into the injured ligaments, and Nuernberg club doctor, Dr. Matthias Brem, has endorsed this technique, stating that it has helped one of his players make a remark-

able recovery.

Oliver Bierhoff has hit back on behalf of the DFB (German FA), stating: "Dr. Muller-Wohlfahrt [the medic to the national side] is an internationally respected physician. We have every confidence in him. We have always fought for every player - even for Michael Ballack. Distance diagnoses do not make sense."

Therefore, it seems that Germany will make no late uturn on the Chelsea ace before naming their final squad.

Ryan Babel Facing Netherlands Fitness Race



Ryan Babel's dream of going to the World Cup with the Netherlands could be seriously compromised by a right hamstring injury, the AP have reported.

As yet there has been no word of the gravity of the problem currently suffered by the 23-year-old, who has had a difficult campaign with club side Liverpool, struggling to gain regular first team minutes.

With 37 caps already to his name, Babel has been a regular member of the international setup for around three years and was likely to

head to South Africa, though coach Bert van Marwijk must trim his provisional squad of 30 down to just 23. Doubtless he will take physical condition into account, and Babel's latest set-back is sure to count against him in the final reckoning.

The Amsterdam-born player has already had to endure the anguish of missing out on a place in the Euro 2008 panel due to ankle ligament trouble, and it seems he could be in a similarly tight spot this summer if his complaint proves to be at all serious.

World Cup 2010: Mexico to use Black Uniforms in opener

Mexico will wear their alternate kit against South Africa on June 11.

To promote the national team, the Mexican Football Federation uses the phrase ponte la verde, or wear the green.

It's not certain if the FMF will ask of their supporters

"ponte la negra," or wear the black, but their team will do just that on June 11.

Mexico announced Friday that they will wear black uniforms for the opening match of the 2010 World Cup. Mexico's black uniforms will be on display to the world when

Mexico and hosts South Africa play the first game of the World Cup.

Mexico debuted their black uniforms against New Zealand in March and received approval from FIFA to use their altenrate kits against South Africa.

In the 2006 World Cup, Mexico used green uniforms against Iran and Argentina and wore white shirts and green shorts against Angola and Portugal.

According to reports, Mexico may opt for green against France on June 17.

Group A

South Africa Mexico Uruguay France

Group E

Netherlands Denmark Japan Cameroon

Group B

Argentina Nigeria Korea Republic Greece

Group F

Italy Paraguay New Zealand Slovakia

Group C

England USA Algeria Slovenia

Group G

Brazil Korea DPR Côte d'Ivoire Portugal

Group D

Germany Australia Serbia Ghana

Group H

Spain Switzerland Honduras Chile



*matinee: saturday - sunday | **late show: friday & saturday

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PG NEW	STREET DA daily: matinee:	12:45	5:45 3:15	8:00 late show:	11:00	9
PG-13	THE LOSER daily: matinee:	RS		9:00 late show:	11:15	
PG-13	daily:	A FUNERAL 12:15	4:45 2:30	7:00 late show:	9:15 11:30	
PG-13	NIGHTMAI daily: matinee:	2:15	5:00	7:15 late show:	9:30 11:45	
PG-13	IRON MAN daily: matinee:	2 12:00	5:30 2:45	8:45 late show:	11:30	
PG-13	HOT TUB T daily: matinee:	IME MACHIN	E 4:00	6:15 late show:		

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PG	FURRY VEN daily: matinee:	12:00	4:30 2:30	6:45 late show:		
PG-13	IRON MAN daily: matinee:	2 12:15	5:45 3:00	8:45 late show:	11:30	

SHREK FOREVER AFTER (HUMOR/ADV): HE HAS EVERYTHING AN OGRE COULD WANT -- TRUE LOVE, GOOD FRIENDS, A HAPPILY-EVER-AFTER LIFE -- BUT SHREK LONGS TO FEEL HIS MOJO AGAIN, EVEN FOR A DAY. AN ILL-ADVISED DEAL WITH RUMPELSTILTSKIN GRANTS THAT WISH, THRUSTING SHREK INTO A "LOST"-LIKE ALTERNATE WORLD WHERE DONKEY DOESN'T KNOW HIM, WITCHES RULE THE SKIES, AND PUSS IN BOOTS HAS PACKED ON THE POUNDS. AND FIONA? HAVING NEVER MET SHREK, SHE NOW LEADS A BAND OF OGRE OUTLAWS. CAN SHREK SAVE FAR FAR AWAY AND WIN BACK HIS TRUE LOVE?



No easy solutions for Astros' troubles

Veteran stars key to club's hopes for turnaround HOUSTON -- There are no easy fixes or solutions for the Astros, a team seemingly caught between a youth movement and a roster full of veteran players who likely wouldn't want to be part of a rebuilding mode.

Thirtysomething former All-Stars Lance Berkman, Roy Oswalt and Carlos Lee -- who combine to make more than half of the team's \$93 million payroll this year -would love nothing more than to get the Astros back to the World Series and finish their careers as October heroes.

But at roughly the onequarter mark of the 2010 season, the Astros are in last place in the National League Central and need a drastic turnaround to reach the playoffs for the first time since 2005. Should they push forward behind Berkman, Oswalt, Lee and other veterans, such as Brett Myers and Geoff Blum, or start a youth infusion?

The Astros may not have much of a choice, considering the fact that most of their top Minor League talent is in Double-A and below, and Berkman, Oswalt and Lee all have no-trade clauses. Berkman and Oswalt have said they would be willing to waive their clauses if the situation were right, but trades



Astros' Lance Berkman

at this point seem unlikely. "If at some point in time

we have a way to better the club, whether we're playing great or poorly, that's always the objective," general manager Ed Wade said. "But for the time being, we have to keep the faith in the guys that have done it in the past and know they're going to do it again.'

Berkman has a club option for next year, Oswalt is under contract through 2011, with a club option for 2012, and Lee is signed through 2012. Berkman, the longest-tenured player on the team, created a buzz when he said last month he'd agree to a trade if the Astros could get some young talent in return to inject into

the Minor League system.
"That was the motivation behind the comments I made earlier that everybody made such a big deal about, and as an organization, that's certainly not the place you want to be," Berkman said. "You don't want to be devoid of promising and young prospects, and at the same time battling age at the Major League level. That's not where anyone wants to be.

"That having been said, I still like this team. I still think it's a good team. I don't know how good it is, but I certainly think it's better than what we've shown so far.'

Wade, recognizing that some changes had to be made, stirred the straw following Wednesday's win over Colorado and placed veteran second baseman Kazuo Matsui on waivers for the purpose of giving him his unconditional release. The club purchased the contract of 25-year-old infielder Oswaldo Navarro, who was signed as a Minor League free agent last year. He'll back up second baseman Jeff Keppinger and rookie shortstop Tommy Manzella, who represents the first wave in what the Astros hope will become an infusion of young talent at the Major League level.

The majority of the Astros' Triple-A roster is made up of players acquired from other organizations, with some of the top prospects starting to bubble up to Double-A. One exception is catcher Jason Castro, the club's No. 1 pick in 2008. Castro began the year at Triple-A Round Rock and could be called upon at some point, but the consensus is that he's not quite ready.

Houston's biggest struggle this season has been offense, primarily because middle-ofthe-order sluggers Berkman, Lee and Hunter Pence haven't produced to their past standards. The Astros don't have any bats at Triple-A that could help fill that need, so they have no choice but to let those three ride out their slumps.

"We need to get consistent, and there are signs it's beginning to happen," Wade said. "Carlos' game [on Tuesday] night ... was a huge step in the right direction. It's only one game, but you take that one game and the sweep against the Cardinals, and you take the way Hunter has begun to swing the bat at this point in time, and Lance's average is climbing.

CONFERENCE FINALS



WESTERN CONF.

ORLANDO VS. BOSTON

Boston 92, Orlando 88 (Boston Leads 1-0) Boston 95, Orlando 92 (Boston Leads 2-0) Sat. May 22: Orlando @ Boston Mon. May 24: Orlando @ Boston x-Wed. May 26: Boston at Orlando x-Fri. May 28: Orlando @ Boston x-Sun. May 30: Boston @ Orlando EASTERN CONF.

L.A. LAKERS VS. PHOENIX

L.A. Lakers 128, Phoenix 107 (Lakers lead 1-0) L.A. Lakers 124, Phoenix 112 (LA leads series 2-0) Sun. May 23: L.A. Lakers @ Phoenix Tues. May 25: L.A. Lakers @ Phoenix x-Thur. May 27: Phoenix @ L.A. Lakers x-Sat.May 29: L.A. Lakers @ Phoenix x-Mon. May 31: Phoenix at L.A. Lakers



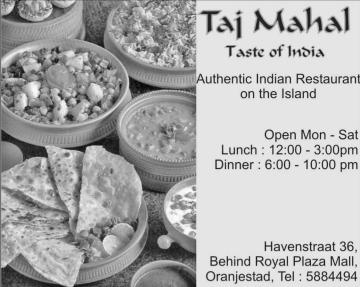
Grosjean to retire at end of 2010 season

Sebastien Grosjean has announced he will retire at the end of the season.

"It's not really my decision," said Grosjean, speaking to reporters at the Rueil-Malmaison exhibition. "It's my body that has made me take it."

Grosjean will say farewell to French Open fans in a doubles appearance with Richard Gasquet, saying he did not request a singles wildcard because was not ready for best-of-five set matches and "did not want to take the place of a young player."

Havenstraat 36 Behind Royal Plaza Mall, Oranjestad, Tel: 5884494 Nadal to wear \$425,000 luxury



French Open draws out; Serena-Henin possible Q

PARIS (AP)—Four-time champion Justine Henin's return to Roland Garros might include a third-round match against Maria Sharapova and a rivalry-renewing quarterfinal against Serena Williams.

The bracket also sets up Henin or the No. 1-seeded Williams, who won the 2002 French Open, to face No. 4 Jelena Jankovic in the semifinals. No. 2 Venus Williams could meet No. 5 Elena Dementieva in the quarterfinals and defending champion Svetlana Kuznetsova in the semifinals.

"It's a strange feeling, but it's very good" to be back at the French Open, Henin said. "I mean, when we were driving last night to Paris, and then this morning to the site with my tennis bag, it's just great. ... A lot of great memories are coming back, and a lot of emotions.

The most intriguing firstround matchup is in the men's field, where No. 4 Andy Murray will take on Richard Gasquet, a Frenchman who once reached the Wimbledon semifinals and used to be ranked in the top 10 but was suspended for part of last season after testing positive for cocaine.

"He's definitely one of the best players that's not seeded," Murray said. "I'm going to have to play very well to beat him."

Defending champion and top-seeded Roger Federer plays 71st-ranked Peter Luczak of Australia in the first round, while four-time champion Rafael Nadal was drawn to begin against 18-



year-old Gianni Mina of France, who made his tourlevel debut this week and so is only ranked 653rd. Mina got into the field thanks to a wild card from the French tennis federation.

"I don't know him," Nadal said. "Can't say a lot."

Nevertheless, Nadal will be a heavy favorite in that match, of course, and also is considered the man to beat at the tournament, which begins Sunday. His 31-match winning streak at Roland Garros ended with a fourth-round loss to Robin Soderling last year. Soderling could be Federer's quarterfinal foe this year, in what would be a rematch of the 2009 final. The other possible men's quarterfinals are Nadal vs. No. 7 Fernando Verdasco; No. 3 Novak Djokovic vs. No. 6 Andy Roddick; and Murray vs. No. 8 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Mario Ancic of Croatia withdrew from the tournament Friday.

Both Williams sisters will start off against Swiss opponents in the first round: Venus takes on Patty Schnyder, a former top-10 player and two-time French Open quar-

terfinalist now ranked 61st; Serena plays Stefanie Voegele, who is ranked 76th and has a career record of 2-4 at Grand Slam tournaments. Voegele never has faced the younger Williams; Schnyder is 0-10 against the older one.

The 22nd-seeded Henin won the French Open in 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2007, but she abruptly retired while ranked No. 1

shortly before the 2008 tournament. She returned to the tour this season and quickly made an impact, reaching the final of the Australian Öpen.

Henin lost at that stage to Serena Williams, who leads their head-to-head series 8-6. But during Henin's last full season, 2007, they met at three consecutive Grand tournaments—the Slam French Open, Wimbledon and the U.S. Open—each time in the quarterfinals, and the Belgian won each of those matches.

Famously, after a straightset loss to Henin at Roland Garros that year, Williams sniffed: "All she had to do was show up."

That's nothing compared to what happened when they played each other in the 2003 French Open semifinals, though, with Henin snapping Williams' 33-match Grand Slam winning streak. There was a flap over whether Henin tried to call time, then lied about it to the chair umpire; Williams fired up the crowd by arguing line calls, was jeered off the court, then teared up at her postmatch news conference.

watch at French Open



PARIS (AP)—Rafael Nadal will have no excuse now if opponents give him a hard time about taking too long between points.

The four-time French Open champion will play matches wearing a Richard Mille watch designed specifically for Nadal, with materials used in space exploration. Mille says there are 50 for sale—at a price of about \$425,000.

Nadal never before has worn a watch while compet-

He flew from Spain to France on Thursday, and was planning to practice at Roland Garros. The tournament begins Sunday.

His uncle and coach, Toni, says Nadal couldn't flex his knees last year, when his 31match winning streak at the French Open ended. This year, Toni says, his nephew's knees are "perfect."

Wozniacki retires in Warsaw; French **Open in doubt**

WARSAW, Poland (AP)— Top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki retired with an injured ankle in the Warsaw Open quarterfinals on Thursday, jeopardizing her play at the French Open.

Wozniacki, ranked No. 3 behind the Williams sisters, lost the first set 6-3 to fifth-seeded

Zheng Jie before retiring.
The U.S. Open finalist sprained her right ankle en

route to the semifinals at Charleston in mid-April. In four tournaments since Charleston, the Dane has won

only three singles matches.
"I have to talk to the doctor and see what we can do with this injury," Wozniacki said. "My ankle was taped really well today and I still felt some pain, so I don't know. I hope I can play (in the French Open).





A new veterinary clinic opens its doors in Paradera





For happy dogs, cats, horses, goats and donkeys
Dogs, cats, horses, goats and

donkeys as well as birds and fish will have a field day on May 22nd, when the new Animal Care Clinic (ACC) of Natalie Booi will officially open its doors. The clinic, located at Paradera 177a, has a wonderful logo made up of Esscher-like drawings of a horse's, a dog's a cat's and a parrot's face. Beneath the logo is written: Your Pet – Their Health – Our Passion.

Proud veterinarian Natalie Booi (32) is the clinic's vet. She has been around animals all her life and loves to work with them. After having studied at the Universiteit Diergeneeskunde in Utrecht, Holland, Natalie came to Aruba for an internship. She met Mr. and Mrs. Contreras, who offered her a job at their clinic right away. She has worked with them for three fantastic years.

www.goldcoastaruba.com • info@goldcoastaruba.com • rentals@goldcoastaruba.com

But Natalie's dream has always been to start a clinic of her own, and now the time is here. Today, the doors of her beautiful, renovated building in Paradera will open for pets and their owners. Her aim is to provide professional veterinary care with a personal touch; clients do not have long waits in the waiting room, as the clinic only works with appointments.

The opening hours of the Animal Care Clinic are from Mondays to Fridays from: 8:00-12:00 and 13:30-17:30. Saturday's from 8:30- 12:00. On Thursdays the consultation hours run until 8:30 pm. The ACC's email address is info@acc-aruba.com, the website is www.acc-aruba.com. For information or appointments you can call 582-8382.

Golf is the closest game to the game we call life. You get bad breaks from good shots; you get good breaks from bad shots - but you have to play the ball where it lies.

